

Minority Business Enterprise Compliance Office

Certification Review Committee (CRC)

Minutes of the Meeting

December 19, 2007

A meeting of the Certification Review Committee (CRC) was held at the Rhode Island Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908 on Wednesday, December 19, 2007. The meeting was called to order at 2:19 p.m. with a quorum being declared present. Members in attendance were: Charles Newton, Louise Anderson, and Muraina Akinfolarin. Also in attendance was Dorinda Keene, staff to the CRC, Lyla Waterman, President of E.L. Waterman, Inc., Chris Abacherli, Operations Manager for E.L. Waterman, Inc., and Paul Hogan, Esq., legal counsel for E.L. Waterman, Inc.

The Minutes of the November 20, 2007 meeting were reviewed. After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

The Certification Review Committee reviewed recommendations of the MBE Compliance Office regarding applications submitted on behalf of the following firms:

a) Christine Baker, d/b/a Baker Estimating, Detailing & Mngmt WBE/DBE MA

b) Inclusion by Design, LLC M/W/DBE RI

After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the certification of these firms for participation in the State of Rhode Island's MBE program, as well as the DBE program, as applicable, as administered by those transportation agencies governed by 49 CFR in the industry as detailed in the write up presented by the MBE Compliance Office. Motion carried unanimously.

The Certification Review Committee reviewed recommendations of the MBE Compliance Office regarding the application submitted on behalf of the following firm:

a) MacKenzie Painting Co., Inc. WBE/DBE CT

After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to notify this firm of a hearing based upon issues of affiliation with non-minority firms. Motion carried unanimously.

Hearings:

E.L. Waterman, Inc. – A hearing was conducted before the CRC pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act and was attended by the President and owner of the firm, Ms. Lyla Waterman, as well as by the Operations Manager, Mr. Chris Abacherli, and by Mr. Paul Hogan,

Esq., legal counsel for the applicant. After questioning by the members of the CRC concerning issues of control and licensing, the hearing was tabled, pending a meeting with the RI Dept. of Labor and Training, Professional Regulation Division, regarding specific licensing requirements.

Old/New Business:

The Smart Associates Environmental Consultants – The members of the CRC were advised that this applicant had withdrawn their request for a hearing regarding the application for recertification submitted on behalf of this applicant.

Davanc Contracting, Inc. – The application for certification submitted on behalf of this applicant had been tabled at the previous meeting, pending additional information. The Certification Review Committee reviewed the recommendation of the MBE Compliance Office regarding this application. After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the certification of this firm for participation in the State of Rhode Island's MBE program, as well as the DBE program, as applicable, as administered by those transportation agencies governed by 49 CFR in the industry as detailed in the write up presented by the MBE Compliance Office. Motion carried 2/0, with one abstention (Newton).

Twins Oil, Inc. – The members of the CRC were advised that the MBE

Compliance Office had received a third party complaint alleging that this firm may not be operating as a legitimate MBE/WBE/DBE. The MBE Compliance Office conducted a review of this firm, including a new site visit, and submitted a recommendation to the CRC regarding same. After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the amended recertification of this firm as a WBE/DBE in the State of Rhode Island. Motion carried unanimously. A second motion was made and properly seconded to notify the complainant of the conclusion of the investigation. Motion carried unanimously.

Desperini Contracting Group, Inc. – The members of the CRC were advised that this applicant had submitted a request for category expansion of their current certification to include concrete foundation work. The CRC was also advised that this applicant had submitted a previous category expansion request that had been denied due to the applicant's failure to submit information as requested. After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to waive the 12 month waiting period to submit an application, following the previous denial, based upon updated information received from the applicant. Motion carried unanimously. After further discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the category expansion, as noted and recommended by the MBE Compliance Office. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was

adjourned at 3:11 p.m. The next meeting of the Certification Review Committee shall be Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.